

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ELIGIBILITY:

Eligible Activities:

The 12 Transportation Enhancement eligible activities are listed below:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
2. Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
4. Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities).
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
6. Historic preservation.
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals).
8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails).
9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
10. Archaeological planning and research.
11. Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.
12. Establishment of transportation museums.

In order for a project to be eligible for enhancement funding, that project must include at least one of the 12 qualifying activities listed above, and the project must relate to surface transportation. Surface transportation means all elements of the intermodal transportation system, exclusive of aviation. For the purposes of eligibility, surface transportation includes water as surface transportation and includes related features such as canals, lighthouses, and docks or piers connecting to ferry operations, as long as the proposed enhancement otherwise meets the basic eligibility criteria.

A project's relationship to surface transportation is not established solely by its proximity to a highway or transportation facility. For example, a qualifying activity could not be deemed ineligible simply because it is not adjacent to a transportation facility, as long as some relationship to surface transportation could be established. Conversely, a project located next to a transportation facility, would not automatically be considered eligible for enhancement funds simply because of its location.

Eligible Activities (Continued):

Below are some other considerations for project eligibility:

- An enhancement activity may be a “stand-alone” project, or it may be a component of a larger transportation project.
- Enhancements funds must benefit the public interest. Funded activities must be accessible to the general public.
- Enhancement project proponents must provide for the continued maintenance and operation of the enhancement funded facility over its economic or useful life.
- Enhancement funds may not be used for routine maintenance (ex. mowing, sweeping, cleaning drains, joint sealing).

Eligibility Discussion by Activity:

1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

Facilities must be principally for transportation, rather than recreation purposes.

Eligible (Must meet ADA requirements):

- New or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, and curb ramps;
- Bike lanes, bike parking facilities;
- Multi-use paths and trails, and trailhead facilities;
- Bridges and underpasses for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Ineligible:

- Facilities constructed as part of a highway project to meet state or local standards for the safe accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists.

2. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Education

Projects must inform, encourage, or help train people to walk or bicycle safely, and/or educate motorists about pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

Eligible:

- Non-construction safety-related activities such as safety promotional campaigns;
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety training;
- Training materials such as videotapes, brochures, and maps.

3. Acquisition of Scenic Easements and Scenic or Historic Sites

The acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites must benefit the travel experience and preserve the scenic or historic authenticity and integrity of the property or site for the traveler. The property or site must be strikingly distinct and offer the traveling public a pleasing or memorable visual or historic experience: the site is a principal reason for the trip. The view or historic site must be protected and preserved for perpetuity.

Eligibility Discussion by Activity (Continued):

3. Acquisition of Scenic Easements and Scenic or Historic Sites (Cont.)

Eligible:

- Acquisition of scenic or historic lands;
- Acquisition of easements to preserve scenic vistas and landscapes;
- Acquisition of buildings in historic districts or historic properties.

Ineligible:

- Acquisitions without a relationship to surface transportation.

4. Scenic or Historic Highway Programs

The scenic or historic highway program must serve the traveling public through the implementation of a scenic or historic highway program, including a state scenic byway program.

Eligible:

- Construction or restoration of tourist and welcome centers (centers must serve travelers visiting one or more designated scenic or historic highways in the area);
- Construction of turnouts and overlooks;
- Design, fabrication, and installation of designation signs, markers, and interpretive displays;
- Purchase and installation of items that support or interpret the scenic or historic program or site such as brochure racks, maps, or kiosks.

Ineligible:

- Construction or reconstruction of rest areas;
- Marketing or promotion items not related to the scenic or historic highway program;
- Staffing, operating, or maintenance costs of tourist and welcome centers.

5. Landscaping and Scenic Beautification

Projects must enhance the aesthetic or visual character of a site, corridor, or community along a surface transportation facility.

Eligible:

- Landscaping;
- Streetscape improvements;
- Lighting;

Ineligible:

- Routine maintenance activities such as mowing, weeding, or tree pruning;
- Seeding or planting for erosion control or screening purposes.

Eligibility Discussion by Activity (Continued):

6. Historic Preservation

Projects must demonstrate a relationship to surface transportation, and result in historic preservation consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation Projects.

Eligible:

- Preservation of buildings and facades in historic districts;
- Restoration or rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings and structures with a strong relationship to surface transportation history;
- Restoration or rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings and structures for transportation related uses;
- Interpretive displays at historic sites.

Ineligible:

- Replication of historic structures;
- Actions to avoid or mitigate the effect of a project on any historic site;
- Projects that are undertaken primarily to enable private commercial use of the site.

7. Rehabilitation and Operation of Historic Transportation Facilities

Building, structure, or facility must have historically been used for a surface transportation purpose or function. Rehabilitation should be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation Projects.

Eligible:

- Restoration or rehabilitation of railroad depots, bus stations, ferry terminals and piers, and lighthouses;
- Rehabilitation of rail trestles, tunnels, and bridges;
- Restoration of historic canals, including towpaths, locks, and bridges.

8. Preservation of Abandoned of Railway Corridors

Projects must preserve and protect a railway corridor.

Eligible:

- Acquiring railroad rights-of-way;
- Construction or reconstruction of multi-use trails along railroad rights-of-way.

Ineligible:

- Preserving a corridor for future highway or public transportation uses.

Eligibility Discussion by Activity (Continued):

9. Control and Removal of Outdoor Advertising

Projects must result in the removal of illegal and nonconforming billboards or other off-premise outdoor advertising signs. Enhancement funds may be used to remove illegal signs only after attempting, and failing, to recover the cost of sign removal from the sign owner.

Eligible:

- Billboard inventories (for use in planning control or removal efforts);
- Removal of illegal and non-conforming billboards.

10. Archaeological Planning and Research

Projects must focus on physical evidence of historic or prehistoric human life or activity relating to surface transportation, or relating to artifacts recovered from locations within or along surface transportation corridors. Projects must be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation Projects.

Eligible:

- Research, preservation planning, and interpretation;
- Inventories and surveys;
- Preparation and cataloging of artifacts for exhibition (artifacts must be surface transportation related, or recovered from locations within or along surface transportation corridors).

11. Environmental Mitigation to Address Water Pollution Due to Highway Runoff or Reduce Vehicle-caused Wildlife Mortality

Projects must reduce the impacts of water pollution due to highway runoff, or reduce vehicle caused mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.

Eligible:

- Wetland acquisition and restoration;
- Detention and sediment basins;
- River clean-ups;
- Wildlife under or overpasses to provide or improve wildlife passage and habitat connectivity;
- Monitoring and data collection on habitat fragmentation and vehicle-caused wildlife mortality.

Ineligible:

- Erosion and sediment controls that are standard construction practices, Best Management Practices, or required by a NPDES permit or Sediment/Erosion Control Plan;
- Culvert replacement to improve fish passage, unless justified for water pollution control;
- Required or neglected maintenance of roadside slopes and highway drainage features.

Eligibility Discussion by Activity (Continued):

12. Transportation Museums

A transportation museum or display must be for surface transportation. For multipurpose museums, the costs borne through the enhancement funds must be limited to the share attributable to a surface transportation focus.

Eligible:

- Construction of a new facility, or an addition to an existing facility;
- Conversion of railroad stations or historic properties to museums with surface transportation themes;
- Purchase of artifacts necessary for the creation and operation of the facility.

Ineligible:

- Displays, segments of buildings, or objects not directly related to surface transportation.